

County Government. Samuel G. Smith, Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas Co #1  
was first under the regime of Augusta County, and the laws that  
controlled the entire area of Augusta County was the law that controlled the  
centers of what is now Pocahontas and "Greater Bath County". The same law  
controlled the pioneers of what is now Pocahontas. The same law, custom,  
habits, religiously, and politically, of Bath County were the same as was  
practiced by the very early controlling bodies of Pocahontas County after  
formation.

I am sending a petition of the names of the men that brought about  
the formation of Greater Bath County which included the Pocahontas Area.  
This petition bears date of April 13th 1778 and is recorded in the Annals  
of the County of Bath Va. Bath County was formed Dec. 14th 1790. The peti-  
tion was made about 12 years before the formation of Bath, some other  
petitions were made but are not at hand.

13th April 1778

To the Honorable Speaker & Gentlemen Delegates sitting now

The petition of the Inhabitance of Cowana Calf pastures Bull pasture  
Jackson River and Back Creek Humbly Sheweth

That yr petitioners not only at present but for many years  
past ~~we~~ have labored under so great and grievous disadvantages by  
Reason of the great distance the most of us yr petitioners lives  
from our Courts of Justice from forty to fifty and others near sev-  
enty miles from our nearest court house besides these on our plan-  
tion in the upper end of greenbrier at thirty and forty miles fart-  
her back not to mention Tygers valley which is yet dependent on ~~the~~  
so it would be better for the most of us to ~~put~~ up with small ~~log~~  
~~the~~ ~~log~~ don to us than to attend our present courts for common jus-  
tice at so great a distance and specially in these Extravagant Times  
therefore we yr petitioners humbly praye that our great difficulty and  
hardships may be removed by ~~creating~~ us aner county of our own and as

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of us yr petitioners inhabitants of Calf pasture are lately Thr-  
to Rockbridge County much against our minds and inclinations as its  
ly more inconvenient than stanton and worse road, therefore the whol  
us yr petitioners Humbly prays that our County if granted may be str-  
ck off from augusta and Rockbridge counties by the dividing Waters on  
the top of the North Mountain The lower End to begin on the top of ad  
mountain square with the mouth of the Cowpasture River from thence to the  
Lower End of Willim Manns plantation at the mouth of the fawling spring  
on James River then to continue on a south line to the waters of the  
Green byer from the beginning, the upper End Likewise to begin on the Top  
of North Mountain opposite to the upper inhabitants of the Calf Pasture  
and from thence to the hd waters of the cow and Bull pastures then on  
South Line the waters of the Green byer from the beginning. and ~~and~~  
our bounds is very Extensif, and inhabitance plenty in number and Sefi-  
ent Curcomstance to mk e good all necessary public buldings required by  
we Earnestly pray that your goodness may take our case into yr consid-  
ration and grant ~~our~~ petition al owi ng our Court House to b e built  
in the Cowpasture where it may be sentrable and a greed upon by the  
majority of us yr petitioners &c we rest in suspence in hopes of suce-  
ss in our request.

And we as in duty bound shall pray.

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The above petition of 127 names purpotes to be the first petition that we sent to the Virginia Assembly asking for the formation of Bath County, of which Pocahontas County was later a part this petition bears date of April 13th 1778 and is found in the Annals of Bath County Va. on pge 106 .

Slightly more than a year later there was a second Petition. A third Petition was presented in the very same year 1779. asking that the proposed county include portions of Botetourt and Rockbridge lying in the Cowpasture and Jackson River Valleys. It was presented that in order to attend Court some of the petitioners had to travel hundreds of miles and cross high mountains and rapid streams

Notwithstanding the energy shown in these efforts, the time was not favorable to immediate action. The people of Virginia had to struggle with high taxation and depreciated money . The Revolution had not yet been fought to a finish, and much attention was necessarily bestowed upon the British, the Tories and the Indians.

In 1780 and 1781, the British armies were ravaging the country east of the Blue Ridge so we need not be surprised that further effort was made until after the return of peace. In 1785 there was a petition signed by 522 men, John McCreery, Alexander Black, John Kincaid, John Lewis, of Warm Springs, Va. being the most active men in the movement. In Oct. 1788 there was another petition, the petitioners saying that trouble with the Indians had prevented them from addressing the Assembly at an earlier date. The settlers West of the Allegheny (which is now the region of Poca

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Rafe Laforde	John Montgomery	John McCreery	Henry Beard
Joseph Green	Robert McCreery	John Macdonly	David Frame
Mathis Benston	Wm Rhea	Thomas Feemster	Joseph Green Jr
Wm Jameson	John Feemster	John Kinging	Jas Crocket
John Wilson, Jr	James Peeble	Alex Crocket	Jas Dunwodie
John Hicklin	William Blak	Wm Dunwodie	Thos. Hicklin
Alex Black	Wm Given	Jas Hicklin	William Jackson
John Montgomery	Wm Green	William Stewart	John Carlil
James Stewart	John Montgomery	James Carlil	Edward Stewart
John Montgomery	Robert Carlil	Joseph Beathe	Patrick Miller
John Kincaid	James Hugart	William McCanless	George Benston
John Aowarding	Thos. Douglas	Jno Dunlap	mJoseph Mayes Jr.
William Smith	Robert Loughridge	Joseph Mayes Jr	John Beverage
William Loughridge	George Francisco	Robert McMullin	John Loughrid
Chas Cameron,	William Kilpatrick,	Andy Loughridge,	Robt Peeble,
Andr McCoslin,	Joseph Carpenter,	Robt McCee,	Thos Davis,
James Botkin,	Lofty Pullin,	George Carlisle,	James Clements,
Loftis Pullin Junr,	Christopher Graham,	Jas Clements Sear,	Sam Guliam,
Irvin Benson,	John Redman.	Wm. Wilson,	Wm. JOHNSON , HUGH rdan
Robert Duffel	John Smith	John Wilson	Stephen Wilson
Thomas Cartmill	John Dickenson	Anthony Johnson	Hugh Hicklin
Robert McFarland	James Rucker jr	Jacob Warwick	Wm. Daugherty sen
Samuel McDannell	Robert Hall	John Beard	Wm. Daugherty sr.
William Griffith	Richard Maze Jr	George Daugherty	George Doherty